AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the present application.

1 (currently amended). A method for screening to identify a selective anxiolytic agent comprising contacting a candidate molecule with the $\alpha 2$-GABA$_A$ receptor and the $\alpha 1$-GABA$_A$ receptor and determining whether the candidate molecule selectively or preferentially ~~binds to or~~ activates the $\alpha 2$-GABA$_A$ receptor as compared to the $\alpha 1$-GABA$_A$ receptor, wherein a molecule that selectively or preferentially ~~binds to or~~ activates the $\alpha 2$-GABA$_A$ receptor as compared to the $\alpha 1$-GABA$_A$ receptor is a selective anxiolytic agent.

Claims 2-18 (canceled).

19 (currently amended). The method according to claim 1, wherein the candidate molecule selectively or preferentially ~~binds to or~~ activates the $\alpha 3$-GABA$_A$ or $\alpha 5$-GABA$_A$ receptor to a lesser degree as compared to the $\alpha 2$-GABA$_A$ receptor.

20 (currently amended). The method according to claim 1, wherein the candidate molecule selectively or preferentially ~~binds to or~~ activates the $\alpha 3$-GABA$_A$ or $\alpha 5$-GABA$_A$ receptor to a greater degree as compared to the $\alpha 2$-GABA$_A$ receptor.

21 (currently amended). The method according to claim 1, wherein the candidate molecule selectively or preferentially ~~binds to or~~ activates the $\alpha 3$-GABA$_A$ or $\alpha 5$-GABA$_A$ receptor to the same degree as compared to the $\alpha 2$-GABA$_A$ receptor.

3